

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Technical Inspectors' Demand for Higher Pay (Mid-November - December 1953)

1. In mid-November 1953, technical inspectors of the Central Administration of the Polish Merchant Marine and also from the PLO (Polish Ocean Lines) asked for an increase of salary up to, at the least, that of a first engineer, exclusive of foreign currency allowance, as from 1 January 1954.
2. After an inspection, carried out in Gdynia by a delegate of the Ministry of Shipping, the inspectors were promised an increase, as well as a single payment of one year's premium of 3,000 zloty.
3. On the one hand the inspectors have achieved their aim, but on the other, they now fear that they will be gradually discharged from their posts and not be allowed to go to sea on account of their unreliability.

Storage of Gyro-Compasses and Echo-Sounders (December 1953)

4. MORS (Maritime Radio Service for Ships) has a considerable number of gyro-compasses and echo-sounders in storage. This equipment was originally purchased abroad by the Central Administration of the Polish Merchant Marine, but the Polish Naval Headquarters has prohibited the installation of the equipment in merchant ships.

Salvage of Ex-German Tanker (January 1954)

5. All previous efforts to raise the wreck of an ex-German tanker which is lying on the Gdansk (Danzig)-Hel route have failed. The only achievement has been that she has been shifted to a shallower spot and a close inspection was possible. The directors of PRO (Polskie Ratownictwo Okretowe - Polish Ship Salvage Agency) have given up further salvage efforts for the time being, having come to the conclusion that they cannot raise such a big vessel with the pontoons available.

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6. In view of the fact that the Central Administration of the Polish Merchant Marine is very anxious to salvage the tanker concerned, an approach has been made to [] authorities to sell 16 salvage pontoons to Poland. []

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Construction Work at Swinoujscie (27 November 1953)

7. A new wharf is under construction at Swinoujscie (Swinemuende) between the Maritime Station (Dworzec Morski) and Odra Port Station. A CPN (Petroleum Products Center) bunkering station will be set up by the new wharf in due course. Barges are now bringing along building materials to the site. The work is being carried out by civilians. [] concrete piles were being rammed under what will be the wharf by means of two steam pile-drivers.
8. A single-track, narrow-gauge railway line runs from Odra Port station in a northeastern direction. Rails have already been placed on the sleepers, but they have not yet been attached. No work was in progress on the track at the time of observation.

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Captains Training Course (January 1954)

9. The captains' training course was attended by 26 students, of whom 20 were graduates of the Maritime School and six were admitted on "social promotion" (z awansu spolecznego).
10. All Polish merchant marine officers who completed the course and passed their examinations as captains of ocean-going ships (kapitanow zeglugi wielkiej) in 1953, will be granted their captains' diplomas after at least 12 months' sailing, which includes at least six months as captains of ships sailing in the North Sea and Baltic.

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